

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /122 W

----- 130652

R 220930 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1945

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0335

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS MOPS MZ

SUBJ: ROCKET SHELLING OF PORTUGUESE BASE

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 153 AND 163

PRESS OF MAY 19 CARRIED COMMUNIQUE NO. 12/73 ISSUED BY HIGH
COMMAND OF MOZAMBIQUE ARMED FORCES WHICH STATES:

"1. YESTERDAY, MAY 17, AT 0645 HOURS, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
DENSE FOG, TERRORIST ELEMENTS FIRED ON MUEDA ALDEAMENTO
UTILIZING 122 MM. ROCKETS.

"2. SHELLING RESULTED IN THREE DEAD (TWO WOMEN AND ONE MAN),
TWO HEAVILY WOUNDED (ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN), AND SEVEN LIGHT
WOUNDED AMONG ALDEAMENTO' S CIVILIAN POPULATION.

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"3. DESPITE FOG, HELICOPTER SUCCEEDED IN FINDING ENEMY POSI-
TIONS WHICH WERE THEN BOMBED FIRST BY ARTILLERY AND LATER BY
PLANES. WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS PERMITTED, LAND FORCES WERE
SENT IN PURSUIT. THIS ACTION IS CONTINUING."

COMMENT: THAT ABOVE INCIDENT IS PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE USUAL STRAY SHELLING TO WHICH MUEDA AS THE HEAVIEST ARMED PORTUGUESE BASE IN THE MOST ACTIVE AREA OF CABO DELGADO IS FREQUENTLY SUBJECT, IS INDICATED BY THE NEWS THAT COMMANDING GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, BY HIS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, AND BY THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER BRIGADIER FIOGO NETO, FLEW TO MUEDA ON MAY 21 TO INSPECT RESULTS OF THE ROCKET ATTACK. VISIT IS STANDARD PRACTICE BY GENERAL ON SUCH OCCASIONS TO CALM NERVES AND TO DEMONSTRATE BY HIS PRESENCE (AND THAT OF HIS WIFE) THAT THERE IS NO DANGER, AND TO COUNTER ANTICIPATED FRELIMO PROPAGANDA CLAIMS. HOWEVER, ABOVE COMMUNIQUE IS FIRST PORTUGUESE ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT ROCKET ATTACKS IN MOZAMBIQUE HAVE RESULTED IN CASUALTIES. WHILE NO SPECIFIC DAMAGE OTHER THAN CASUALTIES HAS YET BEEN REPORTED, PRESS STATEMENT RE DE ARRIAGA VISIT MENTIONED THAT HE " OBSERVED THE REPAIR WORK ALREADY BEING STARTED" IN THE ALDEAMENTO OF MUEDA. ALL THIS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT GUERRILLAS MAY BE LEARNING TO FIND THE TARGET WITH THEIR ROCKET LAUNCHERS, WHICH WOULD THUS BECOME MUCH MORE SERIOUS THREAT THAN HITHERTO.

VAN OSS

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TAGS: PINS MOPS MZ
To: STATE INFO BLANTYRE
CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM
LISBON
LUANDA
LUSAKA
PRETORIA

Type: TE

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